REMARKS

Claims 13, 16, 22, and 24-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 27-35 are added. Support for the addition of the claims is found in the specification.

Specifically, support for claims 27-30 is found in the sequence listing; support for claim 31 is found on page 34, lines 16-21; support for claims 32 and 33 is found in the sequence listing; support for claim 34 is found on page 36, lines 16-19; and support for claim 35 is found on page 62, lines 5-8 of the specification. No new matter is inserted into the application.

Entry of the above claim amendments, and early and favorable action of the merits of the present application are thereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above, he is respectfully requested to contact Kristi L. Rupert, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 45,702) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional

Application Number 09/367,052 Attorney Docket Number 1422-0386P

fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

Falls Church, VA

(703) 205-8000

22040-0747

1422-0386P

GMM/KLR